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United States Department of State
Bureau of Oceans and International
Environmental and Scientific Affairs
OES/ENV Room 2657
Washington, D.C. 20520

December 27, 2007

Mr. Jay D. Vogt, SHPO
State Historic Preservation Office
Cultural Heritage Center
900 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501

Re: Project: 060301028F
TransCanada Keystone Mainline and Cushing Extension Pipeline Project
Use of "Sample Field Investigations" in South Dakota

Dear Mr. Vogt,

Please find attached a letter to clarify the use of a "sample field investigation" for the TransCanada Keystone Pipeline Project in compliance with 36 CFR 800. The letter, authored by Michael Metcalf and Ed Stine of Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc. (Metcalf) and dated November 29, 2007, was reviewed by the U. S. Department of State (DOS) and found to adequately justify the research and archaeological methodologies utilized in South Dakota over the course of cultural resource investigations conducted for this Project. Developed with the assistance of the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and consistent with the SHPO's *Guidelines for Cultural Resource Surveys and Survey Reports*, the sampling methodologies employed in South Dakota are also consistent with the *Secretary's Standards and Guidelines for Identification*, as well as 36 CFR 800.4(b)(1).

It should be noted that even after the original research design was found to be acceptable by the SHPO on March 28, 2006, the DOS has endeavored to consult with the SHPO in good faith to resolve concerns that subsequently arose concerning the sufficiency of a sample field investigation for this Project. The DOS was recently notified by the Permit Applicant that a number of final issues regarding further archaeological work remaining in South Dakota have been resolved and that further identification efforts are forthcoming by the Applicant. The DOS is committed to ensuring that these additional identification efforts will be completed in consultation with the SHPO and other consulting parties either as a part of the normal Section 106 process or under the aegis of a forthcoming Programmatic Agreement for this Project.

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If you have any further questions about this letter or the attached synopsis, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth A. Orlando
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Attachment: A Synopsis of the Keystone Pipeline Project Cultural Resources Research
Design and Results for South Dakota